

Region 8 Incident Management Team (IMT) Exercise – Region 8 GKM Hotwash Justification

BACKGROUND

Nationally, EPA's Incident Management Team (IMT) is derived from the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and in accordance with the Incident Command System (ICS).

EPA Region 8 IMT are trained Region 8 personnel that can immediately respond to a major emergency incident such as a hazardous substance or oil spill or a major natural disaster.

The EPA Region 8 Incident Management Team Implementation Plan – December 17, 2007 states that the IMT will maintain their incident management skills through routine training, **exercises, actual emergency responses** and pre-deployments.

Under the Core NAR Region 8 committed to conducting an annual IMT exercise in calendar year 2016.

NEED

We would like to conduct a **hotwash of the Region 8 Emergency Operations Center and Incident Command Post of the GKM response** for our 2016 IMT Exercise.

We would plan a closely facilitated discussion by IMT member including the Command Staff, General Staff and all unit leaders and responders within the Region 8 EOC/ICP to identify areas that went well and areas that need improving.

Hotwash Objectives:

1. Collect IMT staff observations and feedback on their role in the response
2. Clarify response operations and protocols for missing information or misinformation
3. Validate strengths and areas of improvement in our response
4. Identify gaps in our coordination, training, policy, operating procedures or response as a whole

Most of our Region 8 IMT was able to respond and we have found that real life experience is the best way to train and be prepared for the next response.

JUSTIFICATION

Our Emergency Response and Preparedness Program is designed to respond to any types of hazardous substance and oil releases. We hope to help in preventing any such situation but we also conduct numerous trainings, exercises and planning and coordination meetings with other federal, state, tribal and local partners to be best prepared if an emergency incident were to occur. It is, not only, our best practice but our standard practice to take every opportunity to learn and improve our responses. We would like to take advantage of our GKM response within our IMT exercise to identify vulnerabilities and gaps to address them for future large scale spills and disasters.

In the event of another large scale release or disaster we would be back out the door responding whether we get the benefit of improving our response, coordination and capabilities through open frank

discussion or not. We would hope to have a little better insight, improvement and even trust with our other federal, state, tribal and local response communities by implementing our lessons learned from this IMT Hotwash on our next response.

Lastly, other regions and HQ OEM are making plans to discuss GKM during their RRT meetings and other events; some plan to discuss improvements and are asking for R8 participation. In order for us to participate in these events, it makes better sense for us to have some of our own regional discussions first.